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Social development: social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Letter dated 19 October 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement of the Heads of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States on support for the institution of the family and traditional family values (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly under agenda item 27 (b).

(*Signed*) V. **Nebenzia**

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Annex to the letter dated 19 October 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Heads of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States on support for the institution of the family and traditional family values

The Heads of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States, in connection with the declaration of 2017 as the Year of the Family in the Commonwealth of Independent States,

Mindful of the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 8 December 1948, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 16 December 1966, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of 16 December 1966, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child of 20 November 1989,

Noting that the dynamic development of modern society is accompanied by the emergence of new opportunities and challenges in all areas of public life, including popular culture, information, economics and politics, as well as health and education,

Mindful that the cross-pollination of different cultures and human relationship norms has an impact on, inter alia, societal perceptions of traditional family values,

Expressing concern that, in the modern world, the value placed on such fundamental concepts as the traditional family, responsible parenting, generational continuity and mutual accountability is oftentimes eroded,

Sharing a common understanding of the institution of the family as a voluntary union between a man and a woman, based on care and respect for one another and their children and parents,

Convinced that the topic of the family and its traditions should be a unifying element in the cultural dialogue of various countries and peoples,

Reaffirming the common aspiration to build resilient societies and to continuously improve the well-being of citizens of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States,

Recognizing that the family, as the natural and fundamental group unit of society, has the primary responsibility for the nurturing and protection of children and that children, for the full and harmonious development of their personality, should grow up in a family environment and in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding,

Reaffirming the key role of the family in the cultural, spiritual, moral, civic, social, personal and intellectual development of future generations,

Declare that support for the institution of the family, as the bridge between generations and the foundation for a healthy and sustainable future, is one of the main priorities of the legal, socioeconomic and sociodemographic policies of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States,

Consider the welfare and strength of the traditional family as a prerequisite for promoting the long-term sustainable development of our countries,

Note the importance of developing effective organizational, legal, economic and educational and awareness-raising measures in order to create favourable

conditions for starting a family, protecting maternal and child health, developing the institution of adoption, supporting young parents and caring for the older generation,

Stress the need for cooperation in addressing challenges related to domestic violence and violations of the rights of the child; in averting, preventing and investigating crimes against children; in reducing child mortality; in enhancing the culture of child-rearing; in supporting the efforts of the international community to achieve strategic objectives for the development of effective ways and means to protect the institution of the family; in ensuring gender equality and the empowerment of women, including respect for work-family balance; and in promoting and protecting the rights of the child,

Intend to continue to take appropriate steps to engage in international cooperation in order to raise the social standing of family life, preserve traditional family values, strengthen the authority of parenthood in the family and in society, and promote a positive image of fathers and mothers, large families and generational continuity.